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ARCHAEOLOGY IN 1912

PART I

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The year 1912 was noteworthy, not only for many interesting discoveries in Greek lands and in Italy, but also for the two wars which materially changed the political geography of the Eastern Mediterranean and incidentally influenced the development of archaeological research. The establishment of Italian rule in Tripoli put an end to all hope of further exploration by the American expedition to Cyrene. The Italians themselves, as soon as the war was over, made arrangements to organize their new province archaeologically, and the Italian papers have been full of reports of discoveries and plans for the future. Museums have been established at Tripoli-town and at Benghazi; the arch of Marcus Aurelius at Tripoli, which was largely hidden by mediaeval and modern structures, has been cleared and isolated; in the necropolis of the Roman Oea, near Tripoli (which occupies the site of this ancient Roman city), twenty-one rock-hewn tombs have been explored; and from a number of places chance discoveries of mosaics and other antiquities have been reported. It is noteworthy, however, that the excavation of Cyrene is "deferred to a time when political conditions become more settled," and it seems obvious that no thorough exploration of the "hinterland" can be undertaken for many years.

The effects of the Balkan War on archaeology are not as yet quite so evident, except, perhaps, in a negative way. During the fall of 1912 little was done anywhere in Greece, owing to the absence of officials and workmen alike. Several of the ephors were withdrawn from their posts for service in the army, and some of them, as opportunity offered, examined various sites in Macedonia. A passage in the brief report of the Ephor Arvanitopoulos gives a vivid picture of conditions in a few words, and in language which,

except for modern technical terms, would be perfectly intelligible to Xenophon: 'Ἀπὸ τῆς 18ης Σεπτεμβρίου 1912 ἐπιστρατευθεὶς μετέσχον τῆς εἰς Μακεδονίαν ἐκστρατείας ὡς ἑφεδρος ἀξιωματικὸς τοῦ πυροβολικοῦ παρὰ τῇ 5ῃ μεραρχίᾳ· καιροῦ ἐπιτρέψαντος, μετὰ τὴν τροπὴν τοῦ ἐναντίου στρατεύματος, μετέβην εἰς τινα χωρία. . . . Dr. Arvanitopoulos states also that the ephor Papadakis, a volunteer in the Sixteenth Regiment, examined the remains of ancient Aeane and other sites and will present a report. All this suggests that interesting discoveries may be expected from the opening up of Macedonia and Thrace and the islands that have been freed from Turkish rule.

To pass from possibilities to actualities, it is pleasant to record that the most striking discoveries of the year in Greek lands were made by the Americans at Sardis. In a campaign of nearly five months, Professor Butler succeeded in clearing the eastern end of the temple of Artemis and so completed the excavation of this great building. The main features of the plan were made clear by the campaign of 1911,¹ but the complete excavation of the temple brought out many interesting details. The Ionic columns are richly decorated with patterns, so beautifully carved in many cases that they seem surely to date from the fourth century, B.C. In the bases, the upper torus is adorned with patterns of various kinds, oak and bay leaves, two sorts of water leaf, and the more conventional guilloche or plait-band; the capitals are decorated in some cases with palmettes (on the ovolo or echinus) and acanthus scrolls (on the volute band). The jambs of the great eastern door are triple banded, with delicate moldings between the bands. Curiously enough, many portions of the decoration, even in parts of the building that seem to date from the fourth century, are not completely carved, and the temple was clearly unfinished when the catastrophe of Roman times, probably the great earthquake of 17 A.D., necessitated the extensive repairs to which the later, imitative capitals and certain of the decorative patterns bear witness. One curious

¹ See *Classical Journal*, VIII, 99 f. The description which I there gave requires correction in two points. The temple was pseudodipteral, not pseudoperipteral (a careless slip of which I ought not to have been guilty), and there were twelve, not ten interior columns in the cultus chamber and two columns in the back chamber, or treasury.

result of the campaign of 1912 was the discovery of a small and very early Christian church which was built against the southeast angle of the temple at a time when the platform of the building and the bases of the columns had already been buried. The church is remarkably well preserved; the half-dome of the apse is still intact and the primitive altar, consisting of a slab of sandstone set upon a short section of a column, is still in place. In the necropolis, as in former years, many tombs were opened and the collections of vases and bronzes, jewelry and gems were largely increased. In two tombs vases of Attic black-figured ware were found, which should prove helpful in solving the difficult problem of dating the local pottery and other grave furniture. Among the single finds the most important was the bilingual inscription in Lydian and Aramaic mentioned in last year's report, but it has a rival in a long Greek inscription containing a letter from the emperor Augustus to the people of Sardis, dating from the year 4 B.C. In this occurs a reference which shows that a temple of Zeus stood in the same precinct as the temple of Artemis. This temple *may* be the temple of Zeus erected by Alexander the Great, which was built, according to Arrian (*Anabasis* i. 17. 6), on the foundations of the palace of Croesus, and its discovery, obviously, must be one of the principal objects of future campaigns.

At Pergamum the Germans under the direction of Professor Conze devoted their attention especially to the eastern part of the Gymnasium, removing the earth which has accumulated here from earlier excavations. They succeeded in reaching the eastern end and cleared an entrance gateway of Greek date. Explorations were also made along the roadway which leads to the citadel, above the region which has recently been excavated, and here the ruins of two buildings dating from the period of the kings of Pergamum, one of which had later been transformed into a Roman bath, were brought to light.

At Ephesus the work of the Austrians was confined to the harbor and the agora, but no very striking discoveries were made. The most important discoveries that I have noted were all made at the harbor—a propylon “somewhat resembling a Roman temple”; an arch, probably of the Augustan age; and a gateway of unusual

form (semicircular in plan on one side, straight on the other), dated by an inscription in the reign of Hadrian. All the work at this site is now undertaken primarily for the purpose of solving problems that arise in connection with the final publication of the results. Of this elaborate work, the *Forschungen in Ephesos*, the second volume, devoted to the Theater, appeared during the year.

For Miletus and Didyma the last reports that I have seen cover the year 1911 only. At Miletus only minor explorations were undertaken, but at Didyma the clearing of the cella of the temple of Apollo was pushed steadily forward. Many of the better preserved blocks were replaced on the walls, which were thus restored to a height of over 17 feet above the outer stylobate. In removing the débris from the eastern end of the cella, the excavators came upon the ruins of a late Byzantine chapel, and below this, the remains of a larger church, which may possibly be as early as the sixth century, A.D. It had been constructed in such a way that the apse rested on the broad flight of steps which led up from the cella of the temple to the higher level of the pronaos, and the steps themselves had been made to serve as seats inside the apse. After the ruins of the church had been carefully photographed and described they were removed, and the marble steps, twenty-two in number, were laid bare. They are said to be very well preserved, so that they furnish the best example yet known of an ancient monumental stairway.

At Samos the second campaign of excavation at the site of the famous Heraeum lasted from September, 1911, to May, 1912, but added little new information in regard to the temple. Not a single fragment of walls or entablature was found, nor were there any traces of interior supports, so that it seems certain that the great central chamber, which measures some 54×23 meters, was open to the sky. The examination of the peribolos revealed traces of a large rectangular altar east of the temple, an exedra with the base of a statue of the orator Cicero, and parts of a number of small temples or treasuries of the Imperial period. Several bases for statues of members of the Julian and Claudian families are thought to commemorate their generosity in restoring the Heraeum after the damage it suffered during the wars of the pirates.

In Crete Miss Edith Hall, working for the University of Penn-

sylvania Museum, continued at Vrokastro the excavations which were begun in 1910 (*Classical Journal*, VII, 68), devoting her attention especially to the geometric settlement on the summit of the hill and to locating the tombs connected with it. The results in the settlement were disappointing; the houses were poorly constructed and the single finds few. The tombs, on the other hand, proved decidedly interesting. Among them were six tholoi, with vases of the transitional style which marks the change from the Mycenaean age to the geometric period in Crete, and, in one case, Egyptian faience seals of the XX-XXII dynasties and parts of a bronze tripod. The weapons in the tombs were largely of iron, the smaller objects of bronze, and the methods of burial (inhumation and cremation were practiced side by side) give further evidence of the transitional nature of the tombs. Besides the tholoi several tombs of a type not hitherto noted for the transitional age in Crete were discovered, namely, "bone enclosures," like those of the Middle Minoan period found at Palaikastro, in which the bones of a number of persons were deposited together. In these cremation was the rule and the pottery was largely of fully developed geometric style.

At Haghia Triada Dr. Halbherr is reported to have found a large deposit of inscribed tablets, almost all accounts, and a well-preserved shrine of the Late Minoan III period.

At Gortyn the Italians under Dr. Pernier nearly completed the excavation of the Odeum on which the law code is inscribed. Among the finds were five new fragments of the code, two dedications by agoranomoi, and a list of officials called kosmoi. These inscriptions and others appear to confirm the theory of Halbherr that this region formed a part of the agora of Gortyn; it was inhabited from the geometric age and must have contained important buildings in the archaic period, including a round building, from the ruins of which the great inscription was taken. In addition to the examination of the Odeum, some work was done in the neighborhood of the sanctuary of Apollo Pythius, especially in the so-called Basilica or Praetorium, the ruins of which were seen and studied by Venetian travelers in the sixteenth century. These explorations, which were conducted by Dr. Porro, yielded several new inscriptions and statues.

Of the work of the French School at Delos I have seen no reports except an occasional mention of single finds.

At Thasos Messrs. Picard and Avezou, of the French School, carried on further investigations in the vicinity of the Gate of the Satyr and the arch of Caracalla (*Classical Journal*, VIII, 107, 108). Among the buildings discovered were several houses of the Greek period, a Hellenistic heroön, a sixth century temple, and a hypostyle hall which resembles the Thersilion at Megalopolis and was probably a place for public assemblies. But the most interesting feature of the year's work was the careful examination of the building from which the famous "reliefs from Thasos" in the Louvre were taken. From the subjects of these reliefs—Apollo with Nymphs and Hermes with the Graces—and the inscription, *Νύμφησιν κάπολλωνι νυμφηγέτη θῆλν καὶ ἄρσεν ἄμ βούλη προσέρδειν οἷν οὐ θέμις οὐδὲ χοῖρον οὐ παιωνίζεται*, it has commonly been held that they formed the decoration of an altar, though many other theories have been advanced. The investigations of the French explorers showed that the building from which they came was a sort of passage or corridor leading to a larger structure. The reliefs were simply set into the walls of the building, which appears to be of the archaic period. Thus all the earlier theories as to their use are overthrown, and the question can only be settled, if it can be settled at all, by the excavation of the larger building and the determination of its character.

From Athens no very startling discoveries have been reported. The Greek Society continued the restoration of the Propylaea and the exploration of the Pnyx, and carried on a number of minor excavations in the city and in Attica. The most important of the latter were perhaps those at Sunium, where Dr. Stais continued to examine the filling earth in the precinct of Athena, a task to which he has devoted himself at intervals for several years. From the earth turned over in 1912, mostly in the eastern part of the sanctuary where the depth of the "fill" is some two and one-half meters, were recovered many parts of the superstructure of the earlier temple of Athena, which is supposed to have been ruined by the Persians during the invasion of Xerxes, and broken votive offerings. These include vases of proto-Corinthian, Corinthian, and

Rhodian style; painted tablets (one showing armed men on a ship); archaic terra cotta figurines; bronze tripods, pins, and rings; about a hundred Egyptian scarabs; and gold and silver beads. The most important single find was an Ionic capital from the second temple, which shows that this building, erected immediately after the Persian Wars, had Ionic columns—the earliest example, so far as is known, of the use of this order in Attica.

From the Peloponnesus, too, there is not much to record. At Tiryns, some further examination of the Mycenaean palace and the walls of the citadel was undertaken by the Germans. The removal of the Byzantine church showed that it was not built over the ruins of a Greek temple, as has usually been assumed; below it were found only Mycenaean walls. Shafts sunk at various points threw new light on the earlier palace and its walls of defense, showing that the earlier palace was built early in the prehistoric age, remodeled in the L.M. I and II periods, and replaced by the existing palace in L.M. III. Among the remains of pre-Mycenaean occupation, the most interesting are the thick walls of a large circular building, constructed of crude brick on a stone foundation. Of the official publication of the recent work at this site, entitled *Tiryns: die Ergebnisse der Ausgrabungen des Instituts*, two volumes appeared during 1912. The Germans are reported to have worked also at Cleonae, but I have seen no account of the results.

At Argos Professor Vollgraff, of the University of Groningen, continued the excavations which he has carried on at intervals since 1902, and which have gradually brought to light many parts of the ancient city, including the stadium, the gymnasium, the sanctuaries of Apollo Pythius and Artemis Oxyderkes, and a large part of the agora, with its inclosing colonnades. So far as I know, no regular reports of Dr. Vollgraff's explorations are published, so that it is impossible to gain a clear impression of the results from year to year.

At Elis the Austrians met with no better fortune than in 1910 and 1911. A campaign of six weeks was rewarded only by unimportant single finds and very slight remains of buildings—a palestra, two stoae, and a small temple (or treasury)—which are thought to mark the site of the ancient agora.

In Central Greece Miss Walker and Miss Goldman, of the American School, again worked with much success at Halae. In the cemetery many new graves were opened, and on the acropolis a trial trench yielded prehistoric pottery and a large deposit of bronze ornaments. The objects found in the graves included a pair of earrings, a crown, and a small pendant of gold; silver fibulae with engraved, conventional designs; seal rings of silver and bronze; several figurines of "Tanagra" types; a number of excellent black-figured cylixes; and local pottery which shows the influence of Corinthian and Attic black-figured ware.

At Delphi, where the members of the French School are still conducting minor excavations in connection with the publication of the *Fouilles de Delphes*, Mr. Replat, the architect of the School, discovered near the temple of Athena Pronaia a headless draped female figure of the first half of the fifth century, which is said to suggest the "Iris" of the east pediment of the Parthenon. The statue was found just at the beginning of the war with Turkey, and since it was reported to represent Nike, its discovery was hailed as an omen throughout Greece. Quite apart from this adventitious fame, however, it is undoubtedly an important addition to the comparatively small number of original Greek statues of the fifth century.

Farther west, at Thermon, the Ephor Rhomaïos, in investigating the earth below the level of the temple of Apollo, found traces of prehistoric houses with apses, similar to those which came to light in the lowest levels at Olympia. That they date from the second millennium, B.C., and show the early occupation of this district is proved by the existence of prehistoric pottery with geometric decoration and some Mycenaean vases. In the earth around an early altar, also, was found a bronze figurine which resembles late Mycenaean types.

[To be continued]